



City of Sumter, South Carolina

**Palmetto
Pro Open**

A USTA Pro Circuit Event

**American Lauren Embree to face Mayo Hibi in Singles Championship on Sunday
Mueller & Weinhold capture their second PPO Doubles Title on Weinhold's Birthday**

SUMTER, SC (June 20) – It will easily be the best 26th birthday that **Ashley Weinhold** (USA) will ever have. Weinhold teamed up with **Alexandra Mueller** (USA) to win their second Palmetto Pro Open Doubles Championship on Weinhold's birthday at the \$25,000 USTA Women's Pro Circuit Palmetto Pro Open at the Palmetto Tennis Center.

Weinhold and Mueller played to a fourth straight tie break, but once again prevailed 7-5, 5-7 [10-6] over **Danielle Lao** (USA) and **Jacqueline Cako** (USA). Weinhold and Mueller also won the 2010 PPO Doubles Championship.

"We've really only played together a few times since then (winning the '10 title)," said Weinhold. "A lot of that has to do with our schedules, who's playing where; but yeah, we may have to make a little more of an effort to play together."

In the Singles Main Draw semifinals, **[5] Lauren Embree** (USA) looked to be cruising after a 6-0 win in the first set against **[2] Jennifer Brady** (USA), but lost the second set 3-6 before winning the final set 6-3 to earn a spot into Sunday's Championship Match versus **Mayo Hibi** (JPN).

"I thought I played well," said Embree. "Jenny played a great match and I knew it would be tough, even though I won the first set, I knew she was going to fight."

"I'm just happy with the way I competed and played (Saturday) and look forward to playing Mayo tomorrow," she added.

Embree has won three of her four matches in three sets, as she adjusts her sights on Hibi, who defeated **Carol Zhao** (CAN) 6-4, 7-6(4). Embree and Hibi have split their two previous matches against each other, with Embree winning 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-4 in another \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Surprise, Ariz.

"I think I practice and put in the work and prepare for long tournaments like this so I can be ready every time I go on court," said Embree.

Championship Sunday will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Court 1.

For more information:

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